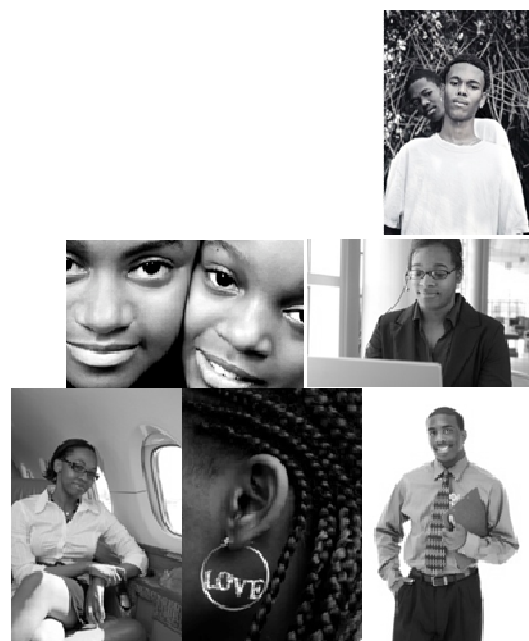




DC DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES

# THE ADVOCATE

*DYRS 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Post Summit Special*



# THE ADVOCATE - Summit Special

April - May 2009

## Why I Come To Work

by Shaundra Crosby, Youth Development Specialist, Youth Services Center

I'm **Shaundra Crosby** and I am a Youth Development Specialist at the **Youth Services Center (YSC)**. I enjoy working with youth and our dedicated staff at the facility. My responsibilities involve managing the Control Center, which controls movement, admissions, and releases of youth and staff within the facility. I also work in the pods where the youth are stationed; I counsel and set expectations of what is the considered appropriate behavior while at YSC. I have been with the agency for four and a half years and enjoy coming into work to assist my co-workers and the youth.

[\[View video\\*\]](#)



## Meet the Ward 8 Unit

by Bernadette Akinseye, Program Support Assistant



From left to right in photo: Derrick Wilson, Jeffrey Hammond, Tracy Parker, Robert Bacon, Bernadette Akinseye, Tianna Hay, Charles Akinboyewa, Nicole Edwards.

The **Committed Case Management—Ward 8 Unit** is located in the Anacostia neighborhood of Washington, D.C. It's comprised of eight dedicated DYRS employees who contribute to positive growth and change in the lives of their youth. Since our case load consists of families living in this southeast community, we have become more accessible and are able to make an active impact. As a team, we take the time to pat each other on the back and rally around the table when needed. We strive to be a unit which represents the agency's mission and makes its vision a reality by supporting the youth we serve.

## DSA/FMD Model New Uniforms



Detained Services Administration/Facilities Management at the Youth Services Center model the new uniforms and logo. From left to right in photo: **Andre Lattimore**, **Lennie Houston**, **Denise Harvest**, **William Hoyle**

## College Bound Oak Hill Youth



Congratulations to **Anthony**, an Oak Hill youth and scholar who was accepted to **Norfolk State University** to become a future Spartan! Thanks also goes out to DYRS and See Forever staff who have been instrumental in guiding exemplary youth, like Anthony, to strive and make a positive difference in their lives. We wish Anthony and the many youth bound for college or their new jobs good luck in their future endeavors.

## Oak Hill Youth Chosen For WSCAA West Team

by Maurice Milline, Student Advocate (See Forever Oak Hill Academy)



With the help of **Coach Milline**, Oak Hill youth **Stephon** and **Gregory** were chosen as the best city-wide athletes to play in the **Washington Charter School Athletic Association (WCSAA)** West team. The WCSAA West team will compete against the WCSAA North, South, and East teams as a finale to the basketball season. This year's Oak Hill Tigers almost won but were knocked out close to the final round of the tournament. Congratulations to Stephon, Gregory, and the team for a great season!

## Team C/D 100 - An Example to Each Other

by Linda Holmes, Supervisory Youth Correctional Officer, Youth Services Center



From left to right in photos: **Phyllis Cassell**, **Linda Holmes**, **Christopher Bradley**, **Yeetta Ward**, **Gerard Bingham**, **Dennis Marbury**, **Darlene Brevard**, **Henry Davis**, **Karan Jeffries**, **Kevin E. Sullivan**. Not in the photos: **Lewis Alves**, **LaKisha Young**, **Duane Smith**, **Ambrose Akinrinmade**, **Gerry Burchett**, **Carroll Chambers**.

Department of Health inspectors (DOH) recently conducted a routine walkthrough of the Youth Services Center (YSC), and were impressed to find that Pods C100 and D100 storage rooms met and exceeded safety standards. The inspectors encouraged other team leaders in other pods to use Pods C100 and D100 as an example to follow in maintaining a clean and safe environment for the youth. Thanks to Team C100 and D100 for serving as positive role models for both DYRS staff and youth!

## Going Paperless, Going Green

by Monita Laurent, Quality Assurance Manager



Since 2004, the licensing process required that vendors submit a five-inch binder with their application and supportive documents detailing administrative, programmatic, and environmental compliance materials. Although the binders were very large, they weren't large enough

to hold one provider's documents. To effectively reduce shelf space and save paper, effective April 1 2009, a secure email address has helped in transforming paper submissions into online application submissions, renewals, and continuing compliance documents. The amount of paperwork has significantly decreased since materials are submitted electronically along with the reduction in shelf space by storing hundreds of documents onto one CD per program. This has helped the licensing team to be more effective in their work while being environmentally conscious in the process.

## Easter Egg Hunt at YSC



With the youth unable to attend the White House Easter Egg hunt, **Lewis Wilborn**, Juvenile Justice Institutional Counselor, and **Robert Sutton**, Recreation Specialist hosted one for youth at the Youth Services Center. Above is a photo of **Lewis Wilborn** (right) and **Robert Sutton** (left) hiding colorful candy filled Easter Eggs for the youth in the courtyard.

## From Class to Market Day

by Tiffany Pierce, Art Teacher (See Forever Oak Hill Academy)

Each Market Day, Oak Hill youth have the opportunity to showcase their creative and artistic skills learned in Art, Wood Shop, and Media Advocacy class. From the classroom projects and assignments, youth create beautiful pieces such as colorful metal roses from melted guns, benches, book shelves, and animal shaped clay pots. To hear about the origins of Market Day – [\[Click Here\]](#)



## DYRS Announces Name of New Secure Facility in Laurel



With multiple submissions by DYRS employees and youth, the decision to choose a name from the many contestants in the naming contest was far from easy. It took the judging panel, comprised of a parent, an advisory board member, and a DYRS line staff, with input from a youth who had formerly been at the Oak Hill Youth Center, an extra day to deliberate and come to a unanimous agreement. We are pleased to announce that the winning name and essay was submitted by DYRS employee **Eric Wade**, Warehouse Foreman in Laurel, MD. To watch Mr. Wade read his essay and explain the reasoning behind it – [\[Click Here\]](#)



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## Mayor Fenty Attends DYRS' Third Annual Summit

Mayor Adrian Fenty attended DYRS's Third Annual Summit and offered words of encouragement to the participants. Several Oak Hill youth performed a great drumming ensemble with the guidance and coordination of VAMP (Voice and Action Motion Players). Staff were able to take photos with the Mayor, and those who did can find their photos uploaded to an external link on the next page. Overall, staff had an enjoyable and informative time with their colleagues and their presentations during the three day conference.



Maurice Shaw, Program Manager and 40 Years of Service recipient, with Mayor Adrian Fenty.

## Dr. Maya Angelou Shares Words of Wisdom With Oak Hill Youth



As part of her annual visit to See Forever's Fundraiser, Dr. Maya Angelou made a very special stop at the Oak Hill Youth Center. She shared her words of wisdom with the young scholars, and willingly told her story of struggle and perseverance. Among the many youth, Darius opened up the ceremony with a warm welcome that chilly day, Leone shared his poem - "Phenomenal Man," and Johnny concluded the youth's welcome with a hand-carved painted artwork given to Dr. Angelou.

To read and listen to Dr. Maya Angelou's speech to the students, click on either of the links below:

[\\*Washington Post Article](#)

[\\*Fox 5 News Video Segment of Dr. Maya Angelou](#)

## 'Choosing Change' - A Play By Oak Hill Youth

Oak Hill youth had the opportunity to watch their play come to life on stage. The Young Playwrights' Theater (YPT) performed the script written by Oak Hill Youth at the Oak Hill Youth Center and also for staff and visitors at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center. As part of their tour, YPT will tour high schools and perform at the Gala Hispanic Theater.

WAMU 88.5FM

To listen to WAMU's coverage of the performance — [\[Click Here\]](#)



## A Series On Juvenile Justice



If you've missed the Juvenile Justice series on The Kojo Nnamdi Show, don't fret! You can catch the series online at [www.wamu.org](http://www.wamu.org) or [\[click here\]](#) to be redirected to our Intranet page. For several weeks, during the months of March and April, Kojo Nnamdi has held a series of segments on varying juvenile justice issues ranging from the history of juvenile justice in Washington, DC to how the District's juvenile justice agency has reformed under the tenure of Director, Vincent Schiraldi. The show also focused on where juvenile justice is headed today within the region. Take a listen at how DYRS staff is an integral part of juvenile justice reforms, both locally and nationally!

## Staff Photos From DYRS' Third Annual Summit



To search and download these photos plus more — [\[Click Here\]](#)



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## DYRS Award Winners

**C**ongratulations goes out to our employees who have won an award for their commitment and great work in the agency! Below are the winners of this year's prestigious agency-wide awards.

### Positive Youth Development Award



**Lewis Wilborn, JJIC** and Vincent Schiraldi, Director



Andi Weisman, Chief of Behavioral Health, **Gwen Duboisson, Supervisory Mental Health Specialist**, Vincent Schiraldi, Director



**Carl Matthews, Heavy Equipment Operator**, Carolyn Stennett, Chief Administrative Officer

### Strengthening Families Award



David Muhammad, Chief of Committed Services, David Brown, Deputy Director, **Jeffrey Hammond, Case Manager**, Vincent Schiraldi, Director



Vincent Schiraldi, Director, **Erica Brooks, YFTM Facilitator**, Linda Harlee-Harper, Program Director

### Leadership and Innovation Award



David Muhammad, Chief of Committed Services, **Namon Reid, Unit Manager**, Vincent Schiraldi, Director



**Phyllis Cassell, Youth Development Specialist**, Vincent Schiraldi, Director

### Ambassador Award



Barry Holman, Director of Research, **Ta-Tanisha Wallace, QA Manager**, David Brown, Deputy Director, Vincent Schiraldi, Director



**Damion Jones, Procurement Specialist**, Vincent Schiraldi, Director

### Note: Years of Service Certificate

**W**e apologize for those we missed during the Years of Service recognition ceremony. If we have not recognized you during the Summit or you haven't received your Years of Service certificate, please contact, Amber Williams at [amber.williams@dc.gov](mailto:amber.williams@dc.gov). Certificates were handed out for 10, 20, 30 and 40 years of service. Once again, thank you for your patience as we continue to work with staff to recognize your hard work.



Government of the District of Columbia